2006

Past Presidents Keep Active Lives

Linfield Magazine Staff

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine/vol2/iss3/8

This article is brought to you for free via open access, courtesy of DigitalCommons@Linfield. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@linfield.edu.
H ellie and his wife, Julie Olds, are not strangers to McMinnville. Before being approached about the Linfield presidency, they had vacationed in the area, pursuing their interest in wine. They were enchanted with McMinnville, Oregon and the Pacific Northwest and considered it as a possible place to retire. They are excited about coming to McMinnville and about moving into the president’s house. They rented a house adjacent to Hiram College when he taught there. They look forward to taking an active role in the community as well as immersing themselves in the life of the college. “I loved being part of the college community and I’m looking forward to returning to a residential college,” Hellie said. “I’m near to so many people who work very hard at what they do. He will take an interest in the people he works with, and will take a particular interest in the students.”

Huels and others who know Hellie well agree that his greatest asset is his ability to ask probing questions and listen to what people have to say. “At Kemper, he was a leader who learned what people were doing and what they had to contribute,” Huels said. “He is a man of faith who works very hard at what he does. He takes an active role in his development, both personally and professionally.”

“He is a powerful listener and a compassionate person,” Tyler said. “I have seen him take the time to listen to people.”

“He gives a tremendous amount of time to understanding the issues and the people he’s working with,” she said. “He very much recognizes the value of empowering the people who work with him and for him. I admire his humility. I think humility is one of the most important management traits, and he personifies that.”

“I believe fiercely in the transformational power of undergraduate college education, especially liberal arts education. I believe it both elevates and frees us.”

Vivian A. Bull
1992-2005

The few months since her retirement as Linfield College president have been anything but restful for Vivian Bull. With her trademark energy, she continues flying coast-to-coast, consulting, mentoring and serving the greater community.

Bull is working with regional accreditation commissions and continues her affiliation with Africa University in Zambabwe. She is an active member of the Board of Higher Education of the United Methodist Church, chairing the investment committee, serving on the University Senate and chairing an international peer evaluation committee. She has been nominated to chair the board for the WF Albright Institute of Archaeology in Jerusalem, where she chairs the investment committee. She is also mentoring some new presidents and a newly structured board of trustees.

Bull and husband, Robert, former director of the Drew Institute for Archaeological Research, are finishing up a number of archaeological projects and plan to return to Jerusalem to continue their work on publications.

Winthrop W. Dolan
1968 and 1974

Win Dolan, professor emeritus of mathematics, took the reins of Linfield on two separate occasions, serving as interim president in 1968 and 1974. Following his retirement from Linfield in 1974, Dolan continued teaching part-time for 10 years. He served on the Linfield Board of Trustees until 1989 and since then as a trustee emeritus. He served on the housing authority, the school board budget committee and a county land-use committee. He appeared in more than 20 plays and musicals at McMinnville’s Gallery Theatre. He also founded Penrose Pastry, a senior lunch program backed by local churches, which operated prior to the opening of the McMinnville Senior Center. Throughout the years, Dolan has remained an active member of the First Baptist Church, singing in the choir for more than 50 years.

Charles U. Walker
1975-1992

Charles Walker has maintained an extraordinary commitment to community service since retiring. During his 17 years as Linfield’s leader, he built a reputation for community involvement, and his retirement has proven no different. He has been prominently involved in the Ford Family Foundation, serving as vice chair of the board and helping to design the foundation’s two major initiatives: the Ford Scholars Program and the Ford Institute for Community Building. He is now a special advisor to the board.

Walker is chair of the Oregon Cultural Trust, which makes grants to cultural organizations in addition to raising funds toward a $200 million permanent endowment.

His interest in education led to Walker’s involvement in the Chalkboard Project, designed to help strengthen K-12 education in Oregon. The project is run by Foundations for a Better Oregon, which he chairs, and is made up of the Ford Family Foundation, the Meyer Memorial Trust, the Collis Foundation, the Oregon Community Foundation and the Jeld-Wen Foundation.

Walker, a classical music enthusiast, also started Neskonw Chamber Music in 1994 and combines his interest in international education and travel to lead tours around the world. He is president of his local library board, serves as a board member of the Tillamook County Futures Council and works as an evaluator for the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Gordon C. Bjork
1968-1974

Gordon Bjork, Linfield’s 16th president, accepted the position at age 32, moving his young family into the president’s home in 1968.

After leaving Linfield in 1974, Bjork went on to a distinguished academic career at Claremont McKenna College in California, where he was the first Jonathan B. Lovelace Professor of Economics and taught until his retirement in 2003. In addition to teaching, Bjork created BankSim, a commercial banking course for which he was twice honored by the Freedoms Foundation. Bjork was appointed to the Environmental Protection Agency’s National Advisory Council on Environmental Policy and Technology. He is the author of four books on economics and has contributed to 10 others.

He and his wife, Susan, live in Santa Barbara, Calif., near their four children and eight grandchildren.

Cornelius H. Siemens served as interim president from 1974 to 1975. He died in 1978.